(iv) **Revamping of Co-operative Credit Structure:** In order to revitalise and revamp the credit societies *i.e.* the cooperative banks, a scheme of revitalization of Co-operative Credit Structure has been finalised by the Central Government under which 60% financial assistance required would be given by the Central Government and 40% by the concerned State by way of bonds. This would be linked with cooperative reforms.

Decline in scientific research

*454. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientific research in India declined in quality and quantity and India slipped from 8th position in 1980 to 15th by 2000, in terms of research papers *i.e.*, from 16,000 papers, those number declined to 12,000, as per International Science Citation Index; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of financial allocations for research;

(c) whether it is a fact that such research papers increased from 924 to 22,000 in China, 175 to 12,000 in Korea, during that period;

(d) whether, despite investments in Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology, the country has not produced any Fellow of Royal Society or Nobel laureates; and

(e) the measures taken to improve scientific research?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per Indian Science Abstracts, scientific research papers published by scientists in India have increased from 14,339 in 1980 to 25,642 in 2000. As per the Science Citation Index, India's rank was 8th in 1980 and 15th in 2000 publishing 14,983 and 12,127 research papers respectively. However, the coverage of Indian journals in Science Citation Index database has been inconsistent during the last 2 decades. At present the database covers only 10 journals while in 1980, the number of Indian journals was 36. The quality of research papers has improved as the number of citations received by scientific research papers from India increased from 10,540 citations in 1995 to 18,154 citations in 2001 as per Journal Citation Report of Science Citation Index.

(b) The allocation for S&T sector during Ninth Plan period was Rs. 25,529 crores. This was Rs. 17,529 crores and Rs. 8,264 crores during Eighth and Seventh Five Year Plans respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As a result of support to scientific research by the Government, a number of scientists have been elected as Fellows of Royal Society in various areas including Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology.

(e) The Government have been taking various measures to improve scientific research in the country by supporting research and development programmes/projects, strengthening S&T infrastructure, manpower development programmes and by providing various fiscal incentives for promoting R&D in industry.

NCERT text books

*455. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some States have decided not to teach NCERT's new text books and not to follow the syllabus based thereon;

(b) if so, how the students in places like Delhi, which do not have exclusive School Examination Boards except the CBSE, will answer question papers set by the CBSE, which would be based on NCERT's syllabus; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take so that such students do not suffer in such circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court had earlier stayed the operation of National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2000 and text books relating to Social Sciences, including History and religion and Hindi. After the vacation of stay by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has advised all Heads of Institutions affiliated to it to follow the new curriculum with immediate effect. It is for the respective State Governments/Boards of School Education to take suitable decision in